

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Richard F. Foulke, Richard F. Foulke, Jr., Cord W. Ohlenbusch and Takman Lui

Continuation of  
Application No.: 09/892,945

Filed: June 27, 2001

Title: RETICLE STORAGE SYSTEM

Date: 02/09/04

EXPRESS MAIL LABEL NO. EV 214952 599 US

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

☐ under 37 CFR 1.129(a), or  
(First/Second submission after Final Rejection)

☒ under 37 CFR 1.97(b), or  
(Within any one of the following time periods: three months of filing national application (other than a CPA) or date of entry of the national stage in an international application; or before the mailing date of a first office action on the merits in a non-provisional application, including a CPA, or a Request for Continued Examination).

☐ under 37 CFR 1.97(c) together with either:  
☐ a Statement under 37 CFR 1.97(e), as checked below, or  
☐ a \$180.00 fee under 37 CFR 1.17(p), or  
(After the 37 CFR 1.97(b) time period, but before final action or notice of allowance, whichever occurs first)

☐ under 37 CFR 1.97(d) together with:  
☐ a Statement under 37 CFR 1.97(e), as checked below, and  
☐ a \$180.00 fee under 37 CFR 1.17(p), or  
(Filed after final action or notice of allowance, whichever occurs first, but on or before payment of the issue fee)

☐ under 37 CFR 1.97(i):  
Applicant requests that the IDS and cited reference(s) be placed in the application filewrapper.  
(Filed after payment of issue fee)

Statement Under 37 CFR 1.97(e)

- ☐ Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement; or
- ☐ No item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned, after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

Statement Under 37 CFR 1.704(d) (Patent Term Adjustment)

Applies to original applications (other than design) filed on or after May 29, 2000

- ☐ Each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and this communication was not received by any individual designated in § 1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement.
- ☒ Enclosed herewith is form PTO-1449:
  - ☒ Copies of the cited references are enclosed.
    - ☒ Since this application was filed after June 30, 2003, copies of issued U.S. patents and published U.S. applications are not required and are not being provided.
  - ☐ Copies of the cited references are enclosed except those entered in prior application, U.S. Application No. [ ], to which priority under 35 U.S.C. 120 is claimed. [The earlier application contains copies of the cited references.]
  - ☐ The listed references were cited in the enclosed International Search Report in a counterpart foreign application.
  - ☒ The "concise explanation" requirement (non-English references) for references AM and AN under 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3) is satisfied by:
    - ☐ the explanation provided on the attached sheet.
    - ☐ the explanation provided in the Specification.
    - ☐ submission of the enclosed International Search Report.
    - ☐ submission of the enclosed English-language version of a foreign Search Report and/or foreign Office Action.
    - ☒ the enclosed English language abstract.

☐ Applicant requests that the following non-published pending applications be considered:

Examiner's  
Initials

\_\_\_\_\_ U.S. Patent Application No. [ ], by [inventor(s)], filed [ ], Docket No.: [ ]

\_\_\_\_\_ U.S. Patent Application No. [ ], by [inventor(s)], filed [ ], Docket No.: [ ]

\_\_\_\_\_ U.S. Patent Application No. [ ], by [inventor(s)], filed [ ], Docket No.: [ ]

\_\_\_\_\_  
Examiner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

☐ A copy of each above-cited application, including the current claims, is enclosed.

☐ A copy of each above-cited application, including the current claims, is enclosed, except those entered in prior application, U.S. Application No. [ ], to which priority under 35 U.S.C. 120 is claimed.

The Examiner is requested to return a copy of the above list of pending applications indicating which references were considered with the next office communication.

It is requested that the information disclosed herein be made of record in this application.

Method of payment:

☐ A check for the fee noted above is enclosed, or the fee has been included in the check with the accompanying Reply. A copy of this Statement is enclosed.

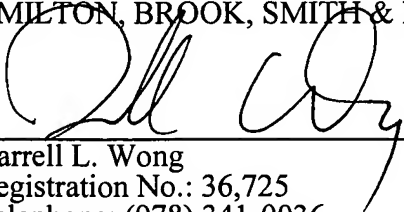
☐ Please charge Deposit Account 08-0380 in the amount of \$[ ]. A copy of this Statement is enclosed.

☒ Please charge any deficiency in fees and credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 08-0380.

Respectfully submitted,

HAMILTON, BROOK, SMITH & REYNOLDS, P.C.

By

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Darrell L. Wong  
Registration No.: 36,725  
Telephone: (978) 341-0036  
Facsimile: (978) 341-0136

Concord, MA 01742-9133

Dated: 2/9/2004

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|---|---|------------------|-----------------|--|
| PTO-1449 REPRODUCED<br><br><b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION<br/>IN AN APPLICATION</b><br><br><b>February 9, 2004</b><br><br>(Use several sheets if necessary) | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.<br>1780.2001-005      |                  | APPLICATION NO. |  |
|   | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR<br>Richard F. Foulke |                  | FILING DATE     |  |
|   | EXAMINER                                  | CONFIRMATION NO. | GROUP           |  |

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| EXAM-<br>INER<br>INI-<br>TIAL | REF.<br>NO. | DOCUMENT NUMBER<br>Number-Kind Code (if known) | ISSUE DATE /<br>PUBLICATION DATE<br>MM-DD-YYYY | NAME OF PATENTEE OR APPLICANT<br>OF CITED DOCUMENT |
|-------------------------------|-------------|--|--|--|
|                               | AA          | 4,757,355                                      | 07/12/1988                                     | Iizuka, <i>et al.</i>                              |
|                               | AB          | 4,986,715                                      | 01/22/1991                                     | Asakawa  |
|                               | AC          | 4,999,671                                      | 03/12/1991                                     | Iizuka   |
|                               | AD          | 5,059,079                                      | 10/22/1991                                     | Foulke et al.                                      |
|                               | AE          | 5,181,819                                      | 01/26/1993                                     | Sakata et al.                                      |
|                               | AF          | 5,562,383                                      | 10/08/1996                                     | Iwai et al.  |
|                               | AG          | 5,565,034                                      | 10/15/1996                                     | Nanbu et al.                                       |
|                               | AH          | 5,645,391                                      | 07/08/1997                                     | Ohsawa et al.                                      |
|                               | AI          | 6,082,951                                      | 07/04/2000                                     | Nering et al.                                      |
|                               | AJ          | US 6,302,927 B1                                | 10/16/2001                                     | Tanigawa   |
|                               | AK          | US 6,308,107 B1                                | 10/23/2001                                     | Conboy et al.                                      |
|                               | AA2         | US 6,356,804 B1                                | 03/12/2002                                     | Conboy et al.                                      |
|                               | AB2         | US 6,439,822 B1                                | 08/27/2002                                     | Kimura et al.                                      |
|                               | AC2         | US 6,445,441 B1                                | 09/03/2002                                     | Mouri  |
|                               | AD2         | US 6,520,727 B1                                | 02/18/2003                                     | Babbs et al.                                       |
|                               | AE2         |  |  |  |
|                               | AF2         |  |  |  |
|                               | AG2         |  |  |  |
|                               | AH2         |  |  |  |
|                               | AI2         |  |  |  |
|                               | AJ2         |  |  |  |
|                               | AK2         |  |  |  |
|                               | AA3         |  |  |  |
|                               | AB3         |  |  |  |
|                               | AC3         |  |  |  |

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|   | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR<br>Richard F. Foulke |                  | FILING DATE     |  |
|   | EXAMINER                                  | CONFIRMATION NO. | GROUP           |  |

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

|  |     | DOCUMENT NUMBER<br>Country Code-Number-Kind Code<br>(if known) | DATE<br>MM-DD-YYYY | NAME OF PATENTEE OR APPLICANT<br>OF CITED DOCUMENT | TRANSLATION<br>YES NO |   |
|--|-----|--|--------------------|--|-----------------------|---|
|  | AL  | EP 0 940 721 A2  | 09/08/1999         | Hewlett-Packard Company                            |                       |   |
|  | AM  | JP 03 155111   | 07/03/1991         | Dan Sangyo KK                                      |                       | X |
|  | AN  | JP 11 249286   | 09/17/1999         | Innotech Corp.                                     |                       | X |
|  | AO  |  |                    |  |                       |   |
|  | AP  |  |                    |  |                       |   |
|  | AQ  |  |                    |  |                       |   |
|  | AL2 |  |                    |  |                       |   |
|  | AM2 |  |                    |  |                       |   |
|  | AN2 |  |                    |  |                       |   |
|  | AO2 |  |                    |  |                       |   |
|  | AP2 |  |                    |  |                       |   |
|  | AQ2 |  |                    |  |                       |   |
|  | AL3 |  |                    |  |                       |   |
|  | AM3 |  |                    |  |                       |   |
|  | AN3 |  |                    |  |                       |   |
|  | AO3 |  |                    |  |                       |   |
|  | AP3 |  |                    |  |                       |   |
|  | AO3 |  |                    |  |                       |   |
|  | AL3 |  |                    |  |                       |   |
|  | AM4 |  |                    |  |                       |   |
|  | AN4 |  |                    |  |                       |   |
|  | AO4 |  |                    |  |                       |   |
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|  | AQ4 |  |                    |  |                       |   |

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|   | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR<br>Richard F. Foulke |                  | FILING DATE     |  |
|   | EXAMINER                                  | CONFIRMATION NO. | GROUP           |  |

| OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.) |  |  |
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| AR   | "Lithography Bay Automation," ©1997, PRI Automation.   |  |
| AS   | "Guardian Bare Reticle Stocker," PRI Automation, No date given.  |  |
| AT   | Johnson, C., "Automated Reticle Delivery in a 300 mm Fab," <i>Semiconductor International</i> , June 2001.   |  |
| AU   | Haris, C., "Integration Key for 300 mm Fab Automation," <i>Semiconductor International</i> , June 2001.  |  |
| AV   | "Lithography Bay Automation," PRI Automation [online], © 2000 PRI, Revised February 28, 2001 [retrieved on June 1, 2001], Retrieved from Internet<br>< <a href="http://www.pria.com/products/fs/pr_fs_litho.htm">http://www.pria.com/products/fs/pr_fs_litho.htm</a> >.  |  |
| AW   | "PRI Automation Ships First Guardian Bare Reticle Stocker," PRI Automation [online], © 2000 PRI, Revised April 24, 2001 [retrieved on June 1, 2001], Retrieved from Internet<br>< <a href="http://www.pria.com/news/press/pri/news_press_pri_010424.htm">http://www.pria.com/news/press/pri/news_press_pri_010424.htm</a> >. |  |
| AX   | "Automation for Fab-Wide Material Control," Asyst Automation, No date given.   |  |
| AY   | "New Motion Control Capabilities," Precision MicroDynamics [emailed May 31, 2001 from pmdinews@pmdi.com to info@pmdi.com, [retrieved June 1, 2001], < <a href="http://www.pmdi.com">http://www.pmdi.com</a> > and < <a href="http://www.motionserver.com">http://www.motionserver.com</a> >.                                 |  |
| AZ   |  |  |
| AR2  |  |  |
| AS2  |  |  |
| AT2  |  |  |
| AU2  |  |  |
| AV2  |  |  |

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